

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 19-26 as follows.

Fig. 21 is a diagram useful in describing an example in which access control information is embedded by controlling the amount of space between words in an alphabetic character string. Such a space is indicated at 1701 in Fig. 21. The space is made $p \leq (1+p)(p+s)/s$, $s \leq (1-p)(p+2s)/2$ if a watermark bit to be embedded is "0" and is made $p \leq (1-p)(p+s)/2$, $s \leq (1+p)(p+s)$ if a watermark bit to be embedded is "1".

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 1-7 as follows.

Figs. 22 and 23 are diagrams illustrating an example in which a character is rotated and access control information is embedded in conformity with the amount of rotation. Fig. 22 illustrates a character before it is rotated and Fig. 23 illustrates a character before it is rotated and Fig. 23 the character after it is rotated. The angle θ through which the character is rotated is indicated at 1901 in Fig. 23.